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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/577,362	06/16/2006	Kikuo Yamada	HOS-74	5196
7590 04/15/2008 H. Jay Spiegel & Associates PC P.O. Box 11 Mount Vernon, VA 22121			EXAMINER MCDONALD, SHANTESE L	
			ART UNIT 3723	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 04/15/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/577,362

Applicant(s)

YAMADA, KIKUO

Examiner

Shantese L. McDonald

Art Unit

3723

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 January 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1,3,4,7,9,12,13,16 and 18-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1,3,4,7,9,12,13,16 and 18-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1,3,4,7,9,12,13,16 and 18-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moss et al. in view of Suzuki et al.

Moss et al. teaches a cleaner, characterized in that a fringe belt is attached to a surface of a cleaner body comprising an insertion portion, 4, into which a supporting body for supporting the cleaner is inserted, the supporting body being a handle, having supporting rods corresponding to the insertion portion of the cleaner body and a grip, 2. Moss et al. also teaches that the fringe belt is comprised of a large number of fringes on a side in a longitudinal direction and a fringe supporting section for supporting each of the fringes, the fringe belt being made of non-woven fabric, the fringe belt overlaps, (col. 4, lines 6-15) and (col. 1, lines 22-24 and col. 2, lines 20-51). Moss et al. teaches all the limitations of the claims except for the fringe belts being fusion-bonded to the surface of the cleaner, a fiber bound body which is obtained by bundling a large numbers of fibers being fusion bonded to the surface of the cleaner, the fringe belt being fuse-bonded to the periphery of the fiber bound body, the fringe belt being convexly curved in a direction of inserting the supporting body and the cleaner body is provided with a sheet material with water-absorbing properties at a back surface opposite to the surface of the

fringe belts. Suzuki et al. teaches fusion-bonding fabric materials to the insertion portion of a cleaning body, and the cleaning body having a large number of water-absorbing fibers fusion-bonded to the surface of the cleaner, around the peripheral edge, (col. 13, lines 28-38), and the cleaner body being a water-absorbing material on a surface opposite the side with the fringe belts, (col. 6, lines 3-37). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the invention of Moss et al. with the above listed limitations, as taught by Suzuki et al., in order to enhance the cleaning capabilities. It would have been further obvious to provide the tool of Moss with the fringe belt being fuse-bonded to the periphery of the fiber bound body, the fringe belt being convexly curved in a direction of inserting the supporting body, since Moss teaches that the fringe material can be attached at various locations of the cleaning body, and Suzuki teaches attaching the material around the periphery of the cleaning body, and since the cleaning body of Suzuki is in a convexly curved configuration, that would mean that the fringe material is attached in a convexly curved direction, and as a matter of obvious design choice.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 1/7/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant argues that there is no motivation to combine the Moss and Suzuki references. The Examiner disagrees. Moss teaches a cleaner with a fringe belt attached to a surface of a cleaner body, and the fringe belt being comprised of a large

number of fringes. Moss teaches attaching the fringe material on various areas of the cleaner body, (col. 1, lines 21-54), and since it is taught that the fringe can be attached at many different positions one would be able to attach the fringe to the periphery. Suzuki has been cited to show that one can join the fibers by fusion bonding. The Applicant argues that there is no motivation to combine the references, but the Examiner disagrees. Moss teaches attaching the fiber by sewing, and Suzuki teaches attaching the material to the cleaning body by sewing or heat sealing, (col. 13, lines 32-37), therefore one can attached the fringes of Moss by heat sealing or fusion bonding, as taught by Suzuki. Suzuki further teaches that the materials are attached to the peripheral edge. Moss teaches that different types of backing material can be used for the cleaning sleeve, (col. 2, lines 33-34), and Suzuki teaches that the cleaning cloth is a non-woven fabric comprised of PET, on the cleaning surface side, (col. 6, lines 13-37). Therefore, one could attach the fiber material of Moss on the side of the cleaning cloth opposite the cleaning side, as taught by Suzuki.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shantese L. McDonald whose telephone number is (571) 272-4486. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Hail can be reached on (571) 272-4485. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

S.L.M.
April 13, 2008

/Joseph J. Hail, III/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3723